

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO EXAMINE IF AND
HOW OTHER STATES REGULATE TOUR OPERATORS WITHIN THEIR
JURISDICTION.

1 WHEREAS, tourism, which accounted for twenty one percent of
2 the state economy in 2013, is the largest single contributor to
3 Hawaii's gross domestic product; and

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5 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to ensure
6 the safety of all residents and visitors; and

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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii currently does not regulate the activities
9 of tour and excursion groups soliciting residents or visitors;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, there has been a rise in tour activity in state
13 parks despite the closure of Sacred Falls State Park in 1999 due
14 to a rockslide and resulting deaths; and

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16 WHEREAS, in December 2014, two tour guides were charged for
17 prohibited entry into closed areas within the Wao Kele O Puna
18 Forest Reserve and the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve and for
19 engaging in illegal commercial activities on state-managed
20 lands, including leading so-called "lava tours"; and

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22 WHEREAS, in February 2015, another tour guide was charged
23 with trespassing, reckless endangering, and conducting illegal
24 commercial activities in a natural area reserve for leading a
25 "lava tour" group in the Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve in
26 Paho-a-Puna; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
29 imposes a fine of up to \$5,000 for a first offense of entry into
30 closed public lands; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
4 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
5 Reference Bureau is requested to examine if and how other states
6 regulate tour operators within their jurisdiction; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the examination include a
9 review of the laws, policies, and procedures adopted by other
10 states to regulate tour operators, if any; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
13 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and
14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 the Regular Session of 2016; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
20 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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